

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (previously presented) A communication system comprising:
determining means operable to determine an attribute of a communication device;
identifying means operable to identify an avatar by using the attribute, wherein the avatar is such that it conveys to a viewer thereof information about a person; and
communicating means operable to communicate the avatar to the communication device in a virtual environment.
2. (original) The communication system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising replacing means operable to replace the avatar with another avatar.
3. (original) The communication system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the identifying means is operable to identify the avatar by comparing the attribute to a communication device identifier that is associated with the avatar.
4. (original) The communication system as claimed in claim 3, further comprising recording means arranged to allow the person to record the communication device identifier.
5. (original) The communication system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the replacing means is further operable to replace the communication device identifier with another communication device identifier.
6. (original) The communication system as claimed in claim 5, further comprising selecting means operable to allow the person to select the avatar from a plurality of other avatars.
7. (original) The communication system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the selecting means is further operable to allow the communication device identifier to be selected from a plurality of other communication device identifiers.
8. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the determining means is operable to determine the attribute by processing caller identification data associated with the communication device.

9. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 8, further comprising messaging means operable to create a text, an audio and/or a video message that is associated with the avatar.

10. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the avatar and the plurality of other avatars depict an activity that involves the person.

11. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the communication device comprises a mobile telephone and the attribute comprises a telephone number of the mobile telephone.

12. (previously presented) A communication system comprising:
an environment support means operable to support at least one virtual environment that can be accessed by a first person; and
a communicating means operable to communicate an avatar in the virtual environment to the first person subsequent to the first person accessing the environment, the avatar being such that it can convey to the first person information about a second person.

13. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 12, which the environment support means is operable to determine a level of authority associated with the second person, and provide the second person with access to the virtual environment if the level of authority is deemed appropriate.

14. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the environment support means is operable to allow the first person to assign the level of authority.

15. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the environment support means is such that it allows the first person to arrange the virtual environment such that it has a desired appearance.

16. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the environment support means is operable to allow the first person and the second person to exchange other information via the virtual environment.

17. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the other information comprises multi-media content.

18. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the communicating means is further operable to allow the second person to control whether the avatar conveys the information to the first person.

19. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the environment support means is operable to allow the first person to access the virtual environment via a communication network, the communicating means also being operable to communicate the avatar in the virtual environment to the first person via the communication network.

20. (previously presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 19, wherein the information conveyed by the avatar to the first person comprises audio and/or video information.

21. (previously presented) A communication method comprising the steps of:
determining an attribute of a communication device;
identifying an avatar by using the attribute, wherein the avatar is such that it conveys to a viewer thereof information about a person; and
communicating the avatar to the communication device in a virtual environment.

22. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, further comprising the step of replacing the avatar with another avatar.

23. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the step of identifying the avatar comprises identifying the avatar by comparing the attribute to a communication device identifier that is associated with the avatar.

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the step of recording the communication device identifier.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising the step of replacing the communication device identifier with another communication device identifier.

26. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 25, further comprising the step of selecting the avatar from a plurality of other avatars.

27. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 26, further comprising the step of selecting the communication device identifier from a plurality of other communication device identifiers.

28. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 27, wherein the step of determining the attribute comprises determining the attribute by processing caller identification data that is associated with the communication device.

29. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of creating a text, an audio and/or a video message that is associated with the avatar.

30. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the avatar and the plurality of other avatars depict an activity that involves the person.

31. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the communication device is a mobile telephone and the attribute is a telephone number of the mobile telephone.

32. (previously presented) A communication method comprising the steps of:
supporting at least one virtual environment that can be accessed by a first person; and
communicating an avatar in the virtual environment to the first person subsequent to the first person accessing the environment, the avatar being such that it can convey to the first person information about a second person.

33. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising the step of determining a level of authority associated with the second person, and providing the second person with access to the virtual environment if the level of authority is deemed appropriate.

34. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 33, further comprising the step of the first person assigning the level of authority.

35. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the step of supporting the virtual environment comprises the step of arranging the virtual environment such that it has a desired appearance.

36. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, further comprising the step of exchanging other information between the first person and the second person via the

virtual environment.

37. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the other information comprises multi-media content.

38. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the step of communicating the avatar to the first person comprises the step of controlling whether the avatar conveys the information to the first person.

39. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of allowing the first person to access the virtual environment via a communication network, and the step of communicating the avatar in the virtual environment to the first person via the communication network.

40. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 39, wherein the information conveyed by the avatar to the first person comprises audio and/or video information.

41-42. (cancelled)